

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A computer system includes: a data-handling system operable to receive and transmit data over a data path; a storage device operatively coupled to the data-handling system to receive data from and deliver stored data to the data-handling system; and a security element operatively coupled between an external data path and the data-handling system via the data path, the security element establishing the data path as a trusted path, wherein the data-handling system, the storage device and the security element are disposed in a common physical housing such that access to the data path requires breach of the housing.